

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5-14, 16-18, and 22-24, as amended, are pending herein, claims 3, 4, 15, and 19-21 having been canceled.

An annotated Figure 6 has been provided.

The indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. Claim 7 has been written in independent form to include the significant features of the base claims on which it was previously dependent with the exception of the subject matter of claim 2, which is believed not critical for patentability. Claim 14 has been similarly amended.

Claim 19 has been canceled. The term *offset* is properly introduced in claim 14.

Claim 1 has been amended to specify that the modulation is in the form of the variation in the time of departure or rate of transmission of timestamped packets (see paragraph [0015] for support.) While the use of timestamped packets per se is not known, the prior art does not teach the sending of additional information by modulating the time of departure or rate of transmission of these packets. For example, with reference to former claim 15, the Examiner combines Martinez with Shibata, but Shibata merely discloses the use of timestamped packets, not the idea of modulating the time of departure or rate of transmission of the packets to convey extra information. In a conventional timestamped system, the packets are sent out at times noted by the timestamp, but they are subject to differing delays as they move across the network. The modulation of the time or rate of departure adds additional information that can be used at the receiver, and in the applicant's respectful submission this is not shown in the prior art.

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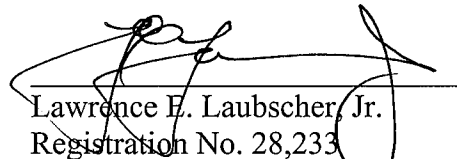
Art Unit: 2616

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It is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. Allowance of claims 1, 2, 5-14, 16-18 and 22-24 is courteously requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC FILING

I hereby certify that the foregoing Response is being submitted via the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Electronic Filing System on
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